



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Question on Citizenship (P-8)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT CITIZENSHIP

- The Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice use these data to comply with Voting Rights Act bilingual election requirements.
- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data in research to identify places which lack health care professionals.
- Businesses, economists, political scientists, and other researchers use these data to analyze social and economic trends.
- Private community organizations use these data to conduct voter registration drives and teach English.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT CITIZENSHIP

- Voting Rights Act
- Title 15 of U.S. Code 1516a—Collection and Publication of Statistical Information

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

8 Is this person a **CITIZEN** of the United States?

☐ Yes, born in the United States → Skip to 10a

☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents

☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization

☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

- The question on citizenship was asked from 1820-1830, in 1870, and again from 1890-1990.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The citizenship question is part of a series of questions used to describe the population as native and foreign born. Information on citizenship also is used to classify the population as foreign born individuals who are naturalized citizens and those who are not.

The native born population also includes individuals who are born in a foreign country but have at least one American parent. Separate information for name of U.S. state or foreign country is needed to prevent confusion with geographic names. For example, the state of Georgia could be confused with the country of Georgia (formerly part of the Soviet Union). Vital information on lifetime migration patterns also comes from the place of birth question.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

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<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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